

IN THE CLAIMS

The entire set of pending claims is provided for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Original) A mandrel comprising a top surface, and an outer surface comprising a plurality of ridges and contoured surfaces extending between the ridges corresponding to polymer leaflets, wherein an edge on the mandrel separates the top surface and the contoured surfaces, with the mandrel edge corresponding to the free edge of the leaflets.
2. (Original) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the mandrel comprises three ridges connected by three scallops to form three contoured surfaces.
3. (Original) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the mandrel edge has a radius of curvature of no more than about 0.25 millimeters.
4. (Original) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the mandrel edge has a radius of curvature of no more than about 0.15 millimeters.
5. (Original) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the angle between the top surface and the contoured surfaces is no larger than about 135 degrees.
6. (Original) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the angle between the top surface and the contoured surfaces is no larger than about 90 degrees.
7. (Original) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the top surface of the mandrel is flat.
8. (Original) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the top surface of the mandrel has flat portions and curved portions.
9. (Original) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the top surface of the mandrel has flat portions adjacent the edge and a protruding portion away from the edge.
10. (Original) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the contoured surfaces are on an outside surface of the mandrel.

11. (Original) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the contoured surfaces are on an interior surface of the mandrel.

Claims 12-28 (Withdrawn)

29. (Original) A mandrel comprising an outer surface having a plurality of ridges and contoured surfaces extending between the ridges corresponding to polymer leaflets in a closed configuration, wherein contoured surfaces corresponding to the leaflets meet contoured surfaces of adjacent leaflets at a sharp edge.

30. (Previously Added) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the top surface of the mandrel is convex.

31. (Previously Added) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the top surface of the mandrel is concave.

32. (Previously Added) The mandrel of claim 1 comprising a groove parallel to the edge of the top surface.

33. (Previously Added) The mandrel of claim 32 wherein the groove has a depth from about 0.01 millimeter to about 1 millimeter.

34. (Previously Added) The mandrel of claim 1 wherein the mandrel edge has a radius of curvature of no more than about 0.1 millimeter.

35. (Previously Added) The mandrel of claim 1 comprising a polymer on the contoured surfaces.

36. (Previously Added) The mandrel of claim 29 wherein the sharp edge has a radius of curvature of no more than about 0.25 millimeter.

37. (Previously Added) The mandrel of claim 29 comprising a polymer on the contoured surfaces.